the Dunkel proposals indicating the objective to be achieved by each change; and

(c) what is the response of GATT community thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) In respect of concerns affecting farmers we have sought a provision to the effect that an effective sui-generis system of plant variety protection may also provide for farmers' and researchers' consumptions The objective is to ensure that the traditional practice of farmers using seed from one crop for planting in the next crop is not affected, and that researchers can use protected varieties for further modifications.

(ii) We have also sought a dilution of the provisions concerning patenting of micro-organisms. The objective is to ensure that the naturally occurring gene sequences are not brought within this the scope of patentability.

(iii) In respect of concerns affecting the poor, we have sought an amendment to the text which would clarify that our public distribution system involving procurement, stocking and sale at subsidized prices is exempt from the disciplines envisaged in the agreement on agriculture.

(c) The reaction of our trading partners to the above mentioned proposals has been as follows :

(i) It is generally agreed that the farmers 'and researchers' exemptions are compatible with a sui-generis system of plant variety protection. However, another participant has suggested that the provision should also include the elements of the sui-generis protection. This has not been accepted by us. Negotiations are continuing.

(ii) No agreement has been possible so far on our proposal on micro-organisms as many countries are of the view that the existing provisions of the text are adequate to take care of our concerns. Negotiations are continuing.

(iii) It is generally agreed that India's public distribution system is not affected by the agreement on agriculture. Negotiations are going on to find a suitable formulation for incorporation in the text.

Decision on Dunkel Proposals

345. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS :
SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :
SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since agreed to accept the Dunkel proposals in the field of agriculture/chemicals; if so the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are aware that the delay in the final decision on the acceptance has generated controversy among farmers/general public;

(c) whether Government would propose to make its stand clear and announce a final decision in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) The Uruguay Round Negotiations are still in progress and Government is seeking improvements, changes and understandings in the Draft Final Act. The question of accepting the Uruguay Round results will arise when the results of negotiations are available.

India's Performance on Exports and Imports

346. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :
SHRI G. G. SWELL :
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN :
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India would exceed the target of 21.4 billion dollers exports this year; if not reasons thereof;

(b) what are the reasons for high level performance on export market;

(c) whether it is a fact that dollers are earned clandestinely through Havala market and are brought back through trade channels; and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that target of imports worth 24.8 million dollars would not be achieved; If so, the reasons thereof;

(e) what is the expected trade deficit in current year;

(f) whether Government have received complaints that customs do not clear samples in time;

(g) whether it is a fact that loading at ports on an average takes 12 days; and

(h) whether it is a fact that duty draw back and International Reimbursement Price Scheme are time consuming?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) and (b) The Ministry in consultation with Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards has fixed an export target of US $ 22.13 billion for 1993-94. Aggregate exports for April—October, 1993, the latest period for which such data is available, amount to US $ 12.131 billion registering a growth of 20% over the corresponding period last year. The improved environment of the new EXIM Policy and the supporting financial and fiscal measures have contributed to this good performance and it is hoped that with the sustained efforts of trade and industry this target will be met.

(c) While the incidence of some malpractice referred to in part (c) of the question cannot be ruled out, the Enforcement Directorate of the Ministry of Finance takes prompt action against havala racketeers as and when specific intelligence is received.

(d) No targets are set for imports.

(e) If the present trend of trade deficit is maintained, the trade deficit during 1993-94 may be under US $ 1.5 billion.

(f) No general complaints have been received regarding delays in clearance of samples by the customs authorities. Whenever any specific instance of delay is brought to the notice of the Ministry of Finance, the same is looked into.

(g) The loading time of the vessels very according to the types of commodity, parcel size and draft of the vessel. No statistics are maintained which may indicate the average loading time at varous ports.

(h) While the duty drawback scheme, as administered by the Directorate of Drawback, is generally not time consuming, specific cases of delay are looked into on merits. The procedure for obtaining reimbursements under the IPRS Scheme is not as such a time consuming process. However, of late there has been delay in disbursement of IPRS claims due to shortage of funds to finance the scheme. The Government is trying to arrange for more funds for IPRS.

Import of edible oil

347. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to import edible oil to meet the gap between supply and demand;

(b) if so, the quantity of the edible oil proposed to be imported stating the names of the country of import and the prices at which the edible oil is proposed to be purchased;